

Appln. No. 10/662,142
Amdt. Dated Friday, September 07, 2007
Reply to the Office action of March 7, 2007

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REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated March 7, 2007. Claims 1 and 3 – 10 are amended and claims 2 and 11 – 18 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 – 10 are in the application upon entry of this amendment. Entry of this amendment, reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Applicants affirm the election of group I, claims 1 – 10, with right of traverse. The inventorship is not changed by cancellation of non-elected claims 11 - 18. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to any cancelled subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings has been mooted in view of the foregoing amendment to the specification which clarify that the word "wash" is more properly characterized as "waste" in the context of the originally filed application. No new matter has been presented by the foregoing amendment.

Applicants note the Examiner's statements made under the caption "claim Interpretations" which are addressed in connection with the rejection under §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons given on pages 2 – 3 of the official action. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner makes a number of specific points and suggestions to each of which Applicants respond *infra*.

With respect to the independent claims, Applicants aver that it is now clear from the claims that the first, second and third locations are different. Moreover, the limitations of claim 2 are incorporated into claim 1. The third location is now claimed as an element within the system.

The relationship between the flexible second robotic arm and the first robotic arm is clarified by the amendments to claim 3.

Claims 4 and 6 are now considered further limiting at least with respect to the rack element, for example. The term "fitted" has been introduced into the claims for clarification.

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With respect to claim 5, as noted above, Applicants aver that it is now clear from the claims that the various locations are different.

With respect to the term high, Applicants cancel this term from claim 5. This phrase is descriptive, but clearly unnecessary for full understanding of the claim.

Applicants agree with the comments of the Examiner and amend claim 7 to read:
"The modular robotic system of claim 5, wherein each said rack is includes an identifying code by bar code; and wherein that is read by said first robotic arm ~~reads said bar code.~~"

Applicants aver that with these amendments following the suggestions of the Examiner the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, is overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsubara et al (US 2006/0165562) is mooted by the foregoing amendments which introduce the limitations of claim 2 into claim 1.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2 – 3 and 5 – 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejection as Applicants have now done.

With the amendments and explanations presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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